Security schemes for handloom and powerloom workers

292. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are going to implement any special security schemes for the workers in handloom and powerloom sector;

(b) if so, by when these schemes will come into force; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (c) The Government of India is already implementing the Weavers' Welfare Scheme with the components of Health Package, Thrift Fund and New Insurance for handloom weavers with the objective of providing health care facilities, social security and coverage against various types of risks such as loss of life, permanent total/partial disability due to accidents, loss or damage to the dwelling units, raw materials, finished products etc. due to natural calamities. The Government of India has also introduced a special contributory insurance scheme for handloom weavers and powerloom workers for providing life insurance cover to the handloom weavers and powerloom workers. The scheme is a combination of Janshree Bima Yojana and Add-on Group Insurance and is implemented in Collaboration with Life Insurance Corporation of India. The scheme covers natural/accidental death, permanent total/partial disability.

Increase in cotton production

293. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that there has been increase in production of cotton but there is no corresponding demand;

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to tackle the above situation; and

(c) whether Government have received any representation from States for export of cotton from India?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) The production of cotton during the current cotton year 2004-05